## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

THE DASH GROUP LLC,

Plaintiff,

- against -

No. 1:20-CV-10671-JSR

JPMORGAN CHASE and EDWYNA W BROOKS D/B/A EW BROOKS BOOKS LLC,

**Defendants** 

## STIPULATED CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER

JED S. RAKOFF, U.S.D.J.

The parties having agreed to the following terms of confidentiality, and the Court having found that good cause exists for issuance of an appropriately-tailored confidentiality order governing the pre-trial phase of this action, it is therefore hereby

ORDERED that any person subject to this Order -- including without limitation the Parties to this action, their representatives, agents, experts and consultants, all third parties providing discovery in this action, and all other interested persons with actual or constructive notice of this Order -- shall adhere to the following terms, upon pain of contempt:

- 1. Any person subject to this Order who receives from any other person any "Discovery Material" (i.e., information of any kind provided in the course of discovery in this action) that is designated as "Confidential" pursuant to the terms of this Order shall not disclose such Confidential Discovery Material to anyone else except as expressly permitted hereunder.
- 2. The Party or person producing any given Discovery Material may designate as Confidential only such material that consists of:

- (a) previously nondisclosed financial information (including without limitation profitability reports or estimates, percentage fees, design fees, royalty rates, minimum guarantee payments, sales reports and sale margins, bank account statements, and other bank account-related documents);
- (b) previously nondisclosed material relating to ownership or control of any non-public company;
- (c) previously nondisclosed business plans, product development information, or marketing plans;
- (d) any information of a personal or intimate nature regarding any individual;
- (e) any information that would be protected under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and/or any other applicable law in the absence of this stipulated protective order, including but not limited to Federal Rule 26(c)(1)(g) as "trade secret" or "confidential research, development, or commercial information"; or
- (f) any other category of information hereinafter given confidential status by the Court.
- 3. With respect to the Confidential portion of any Discovery Material other than deposition transcripts and exhibits, the Producing person or that person's counsel may designate such portion as Confidential by: (a) stamping or otherwise clearly marking as "Confidential" the protected portion in a manner that will not interfere with legibility or audibility; or (b) in the case of electronically stored information produced in native format, by including "Confidential" in the file or directory name, or by affixing the legend "Confidential" to the media containing the Discovery Material (e.g., CD-ROM, floppy disk, DVD). Where only a portion of a document has been designated as Confidential, the Producing Party shall produce for future public use another copy of said Discovery Material with the confidential information redacted.

- 4. A Producing Party or its counsel may designate deposition exhibits or testimony within deposition transcripts as Confidential Discovery Material either by: (a) indicating on the record during the deposition that a question calls for Confidential information, in which case the transcript of the designated testimony shall be bound in a separate volume and marked "Confidential Information Governed by Protective Order" by the reporter; or (b) notifying the reporter and all counsel of record, in writing, within 10 days after a deposition has concluded, of the specific pages and lines of the transcript as well as the deposition exhibits that are to be designated Confidential, in which case all counsel receiving the transcript and its exhibits will be responsible for marking the copies in their possession or under their control as directed by the Producing Party or that person's counsel. During the 10-day period following a deposition, all Parties will treat the entire deposition transcript as if it had been designated Confidential as well as all of its exhibits.
- 5. If at any time prior to the termination of this action, a Producing Party realizes some portion(s) of Discovery Material that that person previously produced without limitation should be designated as Confidential, the Producing Party may so designate such material by apprising all Parties in writing and such designated portion(s) of the Discovery Material will thereafter be treated as Confidential under the terms of this Order.
- 6. No person subject to this Order other than the Producing Party shall disclose any of the Discovery Material designated by the Producing Party as Confidential to any other person whomsoever, except to:
  - (a) the Parties to this action;
  - (b) counsel representing any Party in this action, including any paralegal, clerical and other assistant employed by such counsel and assigned to these matters;

- outside vendors or service providers (such as copy-service providers and document-management consultants) that counsel hire and assign to this action;
- (d) as to any document, its author, its addressee, any other person indicated on the face of the document as having received a copy (or in the case of meeting minutes, presentations, and other similar materials, an attendee or presenter at the meeting), or any other person who counsel has a good faith basis to believe previously received the document in the normal course of business and/or in the course of their employment for a Party;
- (e) any witness who counsel for a Party in good faith believes may be called to testify at trial or deposition in this action, provided such person has first executed a Non-Disclosure Agreement in the form annexed as Exhibit A hereto;
- (f) any person retained by a Party to serve as an expert witness or otherwise provide specialized advice to counsel in connection with this action, provided such person has first executed a Non-Disclosure Agreement in the form annexed as Exhibit A hereto;
- (g) stenographers or court reporters engaged to transcribe depositions conducted or testimony given in this action;
- (h) the Court, including any appellate court, its support personnel, and court reporters;
- (i) the Parties' insurers and insurers' counsel participating in matters relating to this action and their legal, clerical, or support staff, including temporary or contract staff; and
- (j) any mediator or arbitrator engaged by the Parties, provided such person has first executed a Non-Disclosure Agreement in the form annexed as Exhibit A hereto.

- 7. Prior to any disclosure of any Confidential Discovery Material to any person referred to in subparagraphs 6(e), (f) or (j), such person shall be provided by counsel with a copy of this Protective Order and shall sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement in the form annexed as Exhibit A hereto stating that that person has read this Order and agrees to be bound by its terms. Said counsel shall retain each signed Non-Disclosure Agreement, hold it in escrow, and produce it to opposing counsel either prior to such person being permitted to testify (at deposition or trial) or at the conclusion of the case, whichever comes first.
- 8. All Confidential Discovery Material filed with the Court, and all portions of pleadings, motions or other papers filed with the Court that disclose such Confidential Discovery Material, shall be filed under seal with the Clerk of the Court and kept under seal until further order of the Court. The Parties will use their best efforts to minimize such sealing. In any event, any Party filing a motion or any other papers with the Court under seal shall also publicly file a redacted copy of the same, via the Court's Electronic Case Filing system, that redacts only the Confidential Discovery Material itself, and not text that in no material way reveals the Confidential Discovery Material.
- 9. Any Party who either objects to any designation of confidentiality, or who, by contrast, requests an expansion of the categories set forth in Paragraph 2 of this Order or still further limits on disclosure (such as "attorneys' eyes only" in extraordinary circumstances), may at any time prior to the trials of this action serve upon counsel for the Producing Party a written notice stating with particularity the grounds of the objection or request. If agreement cannot be reached promptly, counsel for all affected persons will convene a joint telephone call with the Court to obtain a ruling.

- 10. All persons are hereby placed on notice that the Court is unlikely to seal or otherwise afford confidential treatment to any Discovery Material introduced in evidence at trial, even if such material has previously been sealed or designated as Confidential. The Court also retains unfettered discretion whether or not to afford confidential treatment to any Confidential Discovery Material or information contained in any Confidential Discovery Material submitted to the Court in connection with any motion, application, or proceeding that may result in an order and/or decision by the Court.
- 11. Each person who has access to Discovery Material that has been designated as Confidential shall take all due precautions to prevent the unauthorized or inadvertent disclosure of such material.
- 12. If, in connection with this litigation, a Party inadvertently discloses information subject to a claim of attorney-client privilege or attorney work product protection ("Inadvertently Disclosed Information"), such disclosure shall not constitute or be deemed a waiver or forfeiture of any claim of privilege or work product protection with respect to the Inadvertently Disclosed Information and its subject matter.
- 13. If a disclosing Party makes a claim of inadvertent disclosure, the Receiving Party shall, within five business days, return or destroy all copies of the Inadvertently Disclosed Information, and provide a certification of counsel that all such information has been returned or destroyed.
- 14. Within five business days of the notification that such Inadvertently Disclosed Information has been returned or destroyed, the disclosing Party shall produce a privilege log with respect to the Inadvertently Disclosed Information.

15. The Receiving Party may move the Court for an Order compelling production of

the Inadvertently Disclosed Information. The motion shall be filed under seal, and shall not assert

as a ground for entering such an Order the fact or circumstances of the inadvertent production.

16. The Producing Party retains the burden of establishing the privileged or protected

nature of any Inadvertently Disclosed Information. Nothing in this Order shall limit the right of

any Party to request an in camera review of the Inadvertently Disclosed Information.

17. This Protective Order shall survive the termination of the litigation. Within 30 days

of the final disposition of this action, all Discovery Material designated as Confidential, and all

copies thereof, shall be promptly returned to the Producing Party, or, upon permission of the

Producing person, destroyed.

18. This Court shall retain jurisdiction over all persons subject to this Order to the

extent necessary to enforce any obligations arising hereunder or to impose sanctions for any

contempt thereof.

[Signatures on next page]

## SO STIPULATED AND AGREED.

/s/ Eric Howard

Eric Howard

THE HOWARD LAW FIRM P.C.

244 5th Avenue, Suite C-137 New York, NY 10001 (646) 820-LAW1 (T) eric@erichowardlaw.com

Counsel for Plaintiff The Dash Group LLC

/s/ Christopher Brown

Christopher Brown

**BROWN & ROSEN LLC** 

100 State Street, Suite 900 Boston, MA 02109 Tel: (617) 728-9111

cbrown@brownrosen.com

Counsel for Defendant Edwyna W. Brooks d/b/a EW Brooks Books LLC

/s/ Sylvia E. Simson

Sylvia E. Simson Keith Hammeran

**GREENBERG TRAURIG** 

200 Park Avenue, 39th Floor, Suite 39-36

New York, New York 10166

Tel: (212) 801-9275 Fax: (212) 801-6400 simsons@gtlaw.com hammerank@gtlaw.com

Counsel for Defendant JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: New York, New York

February 2, 2021